

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
RECEIVED

MAY - 6 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

FAITH & VALUES  
CHANNEL

March 13, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 92-266 - Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Mr. Caton:

This is to provide notice, pursuant to Section 1.1206(a)(1) of the Commission's Rules, that copies of the enclosed letter were forwarded today to Chairman Reed Hundt and to each of the other individuals identified as receiving copies. Each of the foregoing also received a copy of this letter. Two copies of the letter are enclosed for inclusion in the above-referenced docket.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey C. Weber  
Executive Vice President  
Programming & Operations

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE



Andrew C. Barrett  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 826  
Washington, D.C. 20554

APR 10 1996  
**RECEIVED**  
MAY - 6 1996  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Sir:

It is common knowledge within the satellite communications industry that the Federal Communications Commission is currently considering a number of applications for license in the Non-Voice, Non-Geostationary Mobile Satellite Service known as the Little Low Earth Orbit (LEO) systems. The innovative new services which can be provided by the Little LEO systems represent a technology advance developed in the United States and a National Resource in that only U.S. companies currently possess all of the resources and technologies necessary to make the concept work. Technology leads are a perishable commodity, and failure by the FCC to act promptly will cause U.S. leadership in this area to be forfeited to foreign interests which have worked very effectively to delay this process at the 1995 World Radio Conference. Some of the applications pending at the FCC were filed almost three years ago, and the FCC has yet to decide whether to act on these applications or create a new process by which these applications should be evaluated. Clearly, a new evaluation process (rulemaking) is no longer credible if the process is to be completed by the next World Radio Conference in 1997. Failure to act in a moderately responsive manner will cause irreparable impact to the US satellite manufacturers, the satellite communication infrastructure industry, the satellite launch vehicle industry, and the information systems industry. Inaction will be tantamount to representing those interests which would move this entire concept to foreign-based competitors.

A competitive marketplace for new, low-cost data services would be a boon to many other industries, including those that could use these new communication capabilities for advancing technology leadership in their own spheres of interest and industries that support the Little LEOs. The energy companies are an excellent example of the former, as the LEO system concept would allow economical communication with remote assets without the large satellite dishes currently used but impracticable in high latitudes, heavy snow areas, and thousands of other remote sites. Assured Space Access is a launch vehicle company - we do not build, own, or operate satellites or communications networks. We are wholly dependent upon a viable U.S. satellite industry for our business. The recent Department of Transportation estimate "LEO Commercial Market Projections", dated April 5, 1996, using the most conservative estimates, predicts 118 Little LEO satellites and 90 small space vehicle launches in the next decade. This estimate is, however, based upon prompt issuance of licenses by the FCC. Without

licenses, these satellites, the launch vehicles to boost them to orbit, and the communications networks they will produce will be foreign built and owned. Support industries such as Assured Space Access will also be left behind.

I urge the FCC to devote sufficient resources and commitment to US technology leadership so that the licensing process can be resuscitated. It would be a significant embarrassment in an election year focused upon domestic issues if bureaucratic delay were the reason for the demise of the U.S. commercial space industry opportunity in this important new field.

We would appreciate any assistance or advice that you can provide on how to persuade the FCC of the urgent need for decisive and prompt action on the pending Little LEO applications as opposed to "paralysis by analysis" and further study of the issues in rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Rendine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Rendine" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Rendine  
President  
Assured Space Access